Pay Scale of Hawaldar Cadre

2768. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rank of Hawaldars in Army is equivalent to the rank of Sargents in Air Force and Petty Officer in Navy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the pay scales for the ranks of Hawaldars and Sargents are not the same;

(c) if so, the reasons for not fixing pay scales of Hawaldars equivalents to the pay scale of Sargents in Air Force and Navy; and

(d) by when, the decision to rectify this anomaly will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The pay scales of Havaldars have never been the same as that of Sargents and Petty Officers. Successive Central Pay Commission have maintained a differential and the pay scales of Sargent and Petty Officer have been higher than that of Havaldar on the basis of the level of skills required for the jobs. The differential in their pay scales is not an anomaly.

Upgradation of Stenographers for AFHQ

2769. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether eligible AFHQ stenographers have not yet been granted second financial upgradation under the ACP Schemes, despite clear orders on the subject;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by when necessary orders will be issued in the instant case; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure timely issue of orders in such matters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No stenographers (Steno-D) belonging to AFHQ Stenographer's Service have been found eligible for grant of second financial upgradation under the ACP Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.